

Miami Dade County
Asian American Advisory Board
111 NW. First Street, suite 1034
Miami, FL 33128

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly, (Chaired); Melissa F. Braynon;; D’Jehanshahi, Reza; Dr. Nasser Eftekhari; Nazy Given; Josephine Gordy; Nidal Hozien; Dr. Joseph Johnson; Shawn Khosravi; Barnaby Min; Shabbir Motorwala; Mehmet Ulutas, Nick Vicera; Manny Wong; and Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Guests: Tohfa Eminova; Alan Jiang; Dr, Patty pattispilaypasat; Irena Voronkova Board candidates. Reinaldo Valdes;

Excused: Dean Chung; Sadrul Fasihi; Meital Stavinsky

Mr. Tavakoly called the meeting to order 6:05 discussed the vision 2013 suggesting that we need to pick a few projects and deliver with excellence: Business Director; Community Recognition Dinner; Business Forum; and scholarship.

Minutes: Mr. Min moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Joseph Johnson seconded it. The board unanimously approved the January, 2013 minutes.

Director’s Report:

Director reported that we welcomed a French and an International Regional delegation of Citizen Diplomats who were invited by the U.S. Department of State for diversity management study. Hiram Barroso, Chief of Staff of Chair Sosa welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Chair and presented them certificates. He informed the Board that the local FBI presented the Board FBI’s Director’s Community Leadership Award in the County Chamber. Official ceremony will take place on April 5, 2013 in FBI Headquarter in Washington D.C.

Attended and spoke at interfaith event organized by Dr. Pochi at the University of Miami, Jan 20, 2013. COSMOS organized a very successful dinner on February 9, at Doubletree Hilton, FIU President Mark Rosenberg was the keynote speaker. Several Board members attended the event. February10, held a candlelight vigil in memory of Jiyoti Singh Pandey, the Indian young lady who was brutally raped and subsequently died of her injuries. The event was held in collaboration with the Commission for Women Board. Finally, worked with Khanya Moorsiri for the Asian Culture Festival. Also reminded the Board that the Chinese New Year Festival will be held on February 17,, 2013 in less than a week. Finally, he reminded that the 2013-14 Executive Committee elections are to be held tonight.

New Business: **Community Recognition Dinner:** Mr. Wong presented a written report about the dinner, selection criteria, and a financial outlook of the event.

Scholarship Award: Ms. Given presented a report on Scholarship including the financial breakdown, methodology, dates, location, and keynote speaker.

 Mr. Nick Vicera submitted a comprehensive report on Board membership; its ethnic breakdown, potential recruits and their ethnic breakdown and he has done a remarkable job in reaching to new communities. However, the Board has to be careful about the vetting process, it

was agreed upon in the past that before the names are to be submitted, the candidates should be invited to a few meetings till they and Board have better understanding of each other.

Mr. Tavakoly welcomed the candidates present and asked each one of them to introduce themselves and all of them did.

Elections: Mr. Khosravi, Chair, explained the election process and distributed the ballots. There were five candidates for four positions; in the first round Mr. Motorwala and Mr. Nick Vicera were tied but Mr. Motorwala withdrew his name. the following Executive Committee was elected:

Adam Tavakoly, Chair
Barnaby Min, Ist Vice Chair
Mehmet Ulutas, 2nd Vice Chair
Nick Vicera, 3rd Vice Chair

Mr. Khosravi congratulated the winners

Announcements:

The Chinese New Year Festival, February 17,, 2013 at Miami Dade College
Asian Culture Festival at Fruit and Spice Park, March 2 and 3, 2013
The Turkish Festival at Huizinga Park, Ft. Lauderdale, March 16 & 17, 2013.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.